ATask force has also been set up by this Ministry to look into various aspects of providing "Affordable Housing for All" and to recommend ways and means of enhancing accessibility of EWS/L1G categories to housing with suitable governmental support and developing innovative financial instruments for bringing flexibility in the housing market and making recommendations as to fiscal, spatial incentives for increasing supply of houses.

Construction of houses for the poor under JNNURM

†2242. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILALVORA:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals have been received by Government from the State Government of Delhi to construct houses for the poor under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of houses to be constructed under the said scheme;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure that the allottees could not sell these houses to others; and

(d) the mechanism to monitor the use of quality material in the construction of these houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARISELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) component of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), 8 Projects with total Project Cost of Rs. 1445.33 Crore have been approved for construction of 55,280 new houses for urban poor in Delhi.

(c) The JNNURM guidelines stipulate a minimum of 12% of house cost as beneficiary contribution (10% in case of SC/ST/BC/OBC/PH and other Weaker Sections). This would facilitate proper identification of beneficiaries and likely to inculcate a feeling of ownership among them. Further, it is stipulated that the title of the land be preferably in the name of the wife or alternatively jointly in the names of husband and wife to discourage allottees from selling the house allotted to them. While approving projects the sanctioning committee at the central level prescribes for survey and proper indentification of beneficiaries.

(d) The Programme Management Unit at the State Level Nodal Agency designated by the State Government and the Project Implementation Unit at the local body/implementing agency level, monitor implementation of approved projects, including quality aspects.

Conversion of dry latrines and the liberation of manual scavengers

2243. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hon'ble Prime Minister has directed her to prepare a status note on the programmes regarding Conversion of Dry Latrines and the Liberation of Manual Scavengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time her Ministry requires to abolish the inhuman system of manual scavengers in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Prime Ministers' Office has directed Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation to prepare status notes on their respective programmes and institutions, evaluate the progress, indicate the difficulties in implementation and suggest time-bound measures to complete the conversion of dry latrines and the liberation of manual scavengers.

The Government of India has revised the guidelines of the Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Low Cost Sanitation" Scheme. As per the revised guidelines, it is proposed to convert existing dry latrines in to water borne flush toilets in the urban areas of the country in a time bound manner from the year 2007-08 to 2009-10.

Workers in Gulf countries

2244. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian workers working in Gulf countries are contract labourers but not immigrant workers as usually called;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken to introduce joint consultative mechanisms to redress the grievances, protect the workers from the atrocities committed;

(c) whether any steps are mooted to sign bilateral labour agreements with these countries to alleviate the problems of the ex-patriate labour;

(d) if so, the details of the above two points; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Overseas Indian workers in Gulf countries are contract labourers to the extent that there is a labour contract between the foreign employer and the worker stipulating, *inter-alia*, the terms and conditions of employment mutually agreed upon by both parties and the period of contract.

(b) to (d) In order to ensure the protection and welfare of the Indian emigrant workers, Government has been signing bilateral MoUs ori Labour. In December 2006 the Government signed an MoU with the UAE and in April 2007 with Kuwait. In November 2007 an Additional Protocol with Qatar was signed to update the 1985 Agreement. MoUs are being finalized with Malaysia and Oman. MoUs are also being pursued with Bahrain and Yemen. These MoUs provide for protection of workers in the informal sector also. Further the MoUs provide resolution of bilateral labour issues through the mechanism of a Joint Working Group.